

New records of *Stiliderus* from Nepal  
(Coleoptera, Staphylinidae)  
21st contribution to the knowledge of  
Staphylinidae

by

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With 1 figure

ABSTRACT

Four species of *Stiliderus* (sensu lato: BLACKWELDER 1939) are added to those known to Nepal, one of them new to science. The synonymy of two other species with *S. kambaitiensis* Scheerpeltz is proposed.

Following my recent work on this genus, my friends I. Löbl (Geneva) and A. Smetana (Ottawa) sent me the material they collected during joint expeditions to Nepal. The combined collections consist of 160 exx. belonging to 8 taxa. Species already recorded from Nepal included therein are *S. variolosus* (Coiff.), *S. fenestratus* (Fv.), *S. nepalensis* Rougemont and *S. feae* (Fv.); New to the country are *S. minor* (Cam.) known from Darjeeling and Bhutan, *S. granulifrons* Rougemont from Burma and Meghalaya, and the two taxa discussed below.

Bibliographic references to all species mentioned in the text and the methods of measuring used in descriptions are given in my Revision (ROUGEMONT, in press).

***Stiliderus kambaitiensis* (Scheerp.)**

*Stilicoderus kambaitiensis* Scheerpeltz 1965, Ark. Zool. 17: 179.

*Stiliderus kambaitiensis* Rougemont Ent. Abh. Mus. Tierk. Dresden, 000.

*Stiliderus dubius* Rougemont (in press) loc. cit. New synonymy.

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*Stiliderus assamensis* Rougemont (in press) loc. cit. New synonymy.

*Stiliderus assamensis* Rougemont 1985, Rev. Suisse de Zool. 92, 1: 220.

1♂ & 2♀ ♀ : Khandbari Distr., Forest NE Kuwapani, 2400 m, 24.IV.84, Smetana & Löbl (in colls. Smetana & Rougemont); 1♂ & 1♀ : Parbat Distr., Ghoropani Pass N Slope, 2750 m, 5.X.1983, Smetana & Löbl (in colls Smetana & Rougemont).

The exx. from each of these localities are two distinct forms which, according to my analysis of the fenestratus group based on the little material then available, appear to be new species. The exx. from Khandbari District are indistinguishable externally from those of a series of (*S. assamensis* Rougemont) from Meghalaya (see ROUGEMONT 1985) but larger than the unique Type. They differ from the former only in their proportionately somewhat smaller elytra, slightly stouter paramere, and the slightly angled sides of the emargination of the male eighth sternite. The other form, from Parbat District, is externally distinct from all members of the group except *S. incognitus* Rougemont in its entirely dark legs and more robust build, and is further distinguished by a longitudinal sparsely punctured, shiny callus on either side of the median axis of the pronotum. The male sexual characters however are identical with those of (*S. assamensis*) allowing minute differences in the shape of the paramere.

The discovery of these two forms, added to the series of atypical *S. assamensis* in Meghalaya and two single females from other localities blurs the distinctions between this taxon, *S. kambaitiensis* Scheerp., and *S. dubius* Rougemont. *S. kambaitiensis* Scheerp. must now be regarded as a widespead, variable species, distinguished only by the sexual characters: apical emargination of male eighth sternite simple, or at most with slightly angled sides, not strongly sinuate or with a distinct parallel sided fundus; parameroid lobes very long and pointed; paramere simple, straight or slightly recurved from the median lobe, without dorsal processes, at most with a minute apico-ventral tooth (Figs. 27, 29, 32 in Rougemont, in press).

Of the eight members of the fenestratus group with maculate elytra recognised in my revision, *S. fenestratus* Fv. and *S. incognitus* Rougemont (the latter described from a Paratype of *S. kambaitiensis*) are very clearly defined by the short, externally almost invisible parameroid lobes, the paramere which is strongly recurved towards the ventral face of median lobe, and the shapes of the male eighth sternites, in addition to the exoskeletal characters used in my key. *S. siamensis* Rougemont and *S. nepalensis* Rougemont also appear to remain well characterised by the combination of elaboration of the shape of the paramere, and the shapes of the male eight sternites.

Although the synonymy is not proposed in this paper, it is recognized as probable that the different forms of *S. kambaitiensis* are conspecific with *S. signatus* Sharp, from which they are inseperable on the basis of the criteria advanced above. *S. signatus*, the Genotype of *Stilicoderus* Sharp, is presently regarded as an endemic of Japan. Recent material, examined since my revision went to press, shows that this too is a very variable species, particularly in size and colour, some exx. being almost immaculate. No comparable forms are yet known from the vast interlying areas of China, where their occurence seems probable.

#### ***Stiliderus smetanai* n. sp.**

♂ H o l o t y p e : Prov. Bagmati, Nagarjun For. nr Kathmandu, 1650 m, 2.IV.1981, Löbl & Smetana (in coll. Mus. Geneva); 1♂ & 1♀ Paratypes: Ibid. (in colls. Smetana & Rougemont).

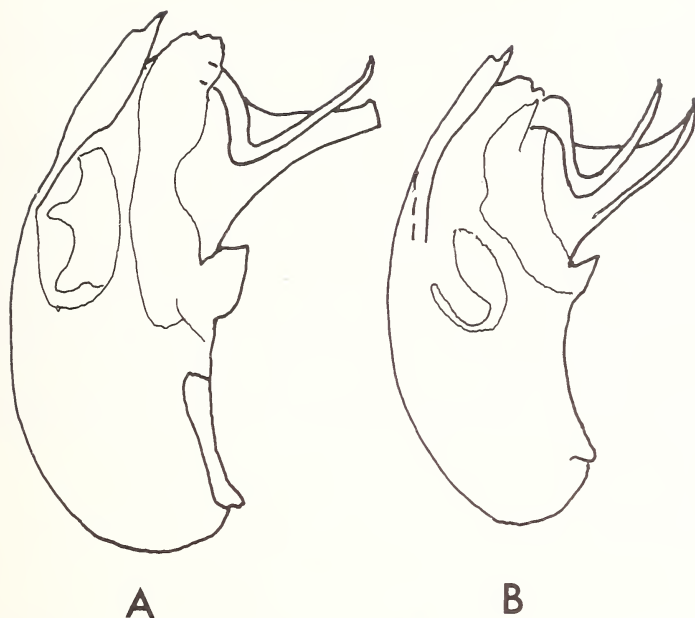


FIG. 1.

Aedeagus, lateral view, of (A) *Stiliderus smetanai* n. sp. (B) *S. loebli* Rougemont.

This new species belongs to the *cicatricosus* group and most closely resembles *S. loebli* Rougemont.

Length: 5 mm. Head and pronotum black, shiny, devoid of microsculpture; elytra pitchy-black; abdomen dark brown; mouthparts and antennae rufotestaceous, the legs a lighter testaceous, without apical infuscation of tibia.

Head slightly transverse (75: 71), the temples almost parallel, the posterior angles evident but evenly rounded, the base rectilinear for more than half the breadth of head; puncturation simple, composed of deep, slightly elongate punctures, their diameter on average twice that of interstices and much greater than that of eye-facets. Labrum rather deeply and broadly emarginate, the median tooth minute, keeled, the lateral teeth larger and slightly divergent. Antennae moderate (l.: 135), the third segment only slightly longer than second (12: 9), the segments thereafter progressively shorter to the two penultimate which are sub-globose (l. & b.: 5).

Pronotum scarcely elongate (75: 72), broadest at the middle, strongly narrowed anteriorly, feebly narrowed posteriorly, and sinuate between the posterior angles and the basal margin; the sculpture consists of large rounded setiferous granules which are very close, but leave an entire, narrow impunctate mid-longitudinal line which joins the deep transverse basal furrow without forming a transverse shiny impunctate callus; the latter is reduced to two small shiny bosses on either side of the mid-longitudinal line.

Elytra very transverse (91: 67; length of suture: 48), the surface devoid of minute granules between the large serially aligned foveate punctures.

Legs moderately short; metatibia: 68; metatarsus: 44; metatarsal segments: I: 15; II: 9; III+IV (including lobes): 15; V: 12. Last segment attached to the dorsal surface of base of segment IV.

Male: secondary sexual characters as in *S. loebli* Rougemont, the seventh sternite very feebly emarginate; eighth sternite with a deep longitudinal depression almost to base inside which is an apical emargination in the shape of a key-hole. Aedeagus (Fig. 1) much as in *S. loebli* Rougemont but the paramere is apically truncate (in lateral view), not acute and slightly recurved as in the former species.

This species is so similar to *S. loebli* (described from Assam) that it may only be determined with certitude by examination of the aedeagus. The only exoskeletal differences I have noticed are the more transverse elytra, and almost imperceptibly coarser puncturation of the pronotum. A certain variation in the size of the head exists in this type series; I have observed this in other members of the cicatricosus group, so that the relative breadth of head and elytra cannot be relied on where differences are slight, although this ratio appears to be stable in other species groups. The aedeagus however may be relied on with confidence for the determination of species.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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